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58. (Amended) An array comprising a pattern of probe oligonucleotide spots of a density that does not exceed about 400 spots/cm², wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot consists of a mixture of 3 to 20 unique oligonucleotides of different sequence and from about 25 to 100 nucleotides in length that hybridize to a different region of the same target nucleic acid to produce a complex made up of said target nucleic acid and 2 or more unique oligonucleotides.

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60. (Amended) An array comprising at least one pattern of probe oligonucleotide spots stably associated with the surface of a solid support, wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot consists of a mixture of a plurality of 2 or more unique oligonucleotides of different sequence that cooperatively hybridize to the same target nucleic acid to produce a complex made up of said target nucleic acid and 2 or more unique oligonucleotides.

REMARKS

In view of the amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections and allow Claims 1-17, 53, 57-59 and Claims 60 – 77, the only claims pending and currently under Examination in this application.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for her time during the helpful interview that was held on April 19, 2001. During the interview the subject invention was discussed with respect to the cited Brown and Pinkel references. The Examiner indicated that a possible way to distinguish over the cited Brown and Pinkel references would be to clarify the claim language to clearly show that the probes hybridize to the same target nucleic acid. In the above amendments, the Applicants have adopted this suggestion.

Claims 1, 57, 58 and 60 have been amended to limit the arrays to ones in which each of the oligonucleotide probes is able to hybridize to the same target nucleic acid at the same time to produce to complex that is made up of the target nucleic acid and the two or more probes. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 17, lines 2 ff.